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*Accountability
Report*

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Kentucky General Assembly,
Legislative Research Commission, and
Strategic Committee on Postsecondary Education

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**Members, Council on Postsecondary Education
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Norma B. Adams
Walter A. Baker
Steve Barger
Peggy Bertelsman
Bart Darrell
John P. Davis
Richard D. Freed
Ronald Greenberg
Susan Guess
John R. Hall
Esther Jansing
Charlie Owen
Joan N. Taylor
Lois Combs Weinberg
Charles Whitehead
Gene Wilhoit (ex officio)

Thomas D. Layzell (president)

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Introduction

KRS 164.020(3) requires the Council on Postsecondary Education (the Council) to prepare an annual accountability report for the Governor, the Legislative Research Commission (LRC), and the Strategic Committee on Postsecondary Education (SCOPE). The purpose of the report is to inform policy makers, legislators, and taxpayers of systemwide and institutional progress toward achieving the mandates of the *Postsecondary Education Improvement Act of 1997* (HB 1). More specifically, the report provides information about:

- Progress toward performance objectives.
- Highlights of reform initiatives undertaken in 2002-03.
- Reform efforts to be undertaken the next year.

This year's accountability report focuses on the six goals of HB 1 by describing how well Kentucky's postsecondary institutions and the system as a whole are fulfilling the goals set forth in the reform legislation. The report also links the performance of the system and individual institutions to the Council's five questions, which focus on state needs and guide the key indicators of reform:

1. Are more Kentuckians prepared for postsecondary education?
2. Are more students enrolling?
3. Are more students advancing through the system?
4. Are we preparing Kentuckians for life and work?
5. Are Kentucky's communities and economy benefiting?

This report reflects the Council's desire to meet the needs of its audience and fulfill its statutory obligations, including those discussed in the Program Review and Investigations Report, *Postsecondary Education in Kentucky: Systemwide Improvement but Accountability is Insufficient*, adopted July 10, 2003. The information in this report is organized as follows:

Reform Snapshot: Overall progress toward postsecondary education reform — State and national data are provided to highlight progress and to identify concerns in Kentucky's performance during the first six years of reform. The Council's five questions, the accompanying indicators and measures, and their relationship to the mandates of HB 1 are explained.

GOAL 1: A report on progress toward creating a seamless, integrated system, strategically planned and adequately funded, to enhance economic development and quality of life — This section reviews systemwide progress toward Goal 1 and supplies performance outcomes where relevant. More specifically, statewide initiatives to improve the transition from high school to college, college transfer, strategic planning efforts, the adequacy of postsecondary funding, and economic development are discussed, as well as initiatives planned for 2003-04.

GOAL 2: A report on the University of Kentucky's progress in becoming a comprehensive research institution ranked nationally in the top 20 public universities — The Council has established goals related to UK's quest for national prominence. UK has additional measures for strategic planning. An update on UK's Research Challenge Trust Fund programs, an essential part of reform, is provided. A description of initiatives planned for next year — particularly those addressing UK's most immediate needs — concludes the section.

GOAL 3: A report on the University of Louisville's progress in becoming a nationally recognized, metropolitan research university — This section provides an overview of UofL's performance on both Council and institutional goals and an update on its Research Challenge Trust Fund programs. A

description of initiatives planned for 2003-04 that will position UofL to attain national recognition and address needs concludes the section.

GOAL 4: A report on regional (comprehensive) universities' progress in offering at least one nationally recognized program of distinction or applied research program, and in working cooperatively with other institutions to assure statewide access to baccalaureate and master's degrees of a quality at or above the national average — Kentucky's six comprehensive universities are charged with providing access to quality programs at the baccalaureate and master's level, developing at least one program of distinction, and implementing cooperative programs and activities with other postsecondary partners. This section reviews the progress toward these objectives by Eastern Kentucky University, Kentucky State University, Morehead State University, Murray State University, Northern Kentucky University, and Western Kentucky University.

GOAL 5: A report on the progress made by the Kentucky Community and Technical College System (KCTCS) toward ensuring access to a two-year course of general studies that transfers to a baccalaureate program; providing the training necessary to develop a workforce with the skills to meet the needs of new and existing industries; and providing remedial and continuing education to improve the employability of citizens — KCTCS plays a critical role in providing associate degrees to students wishing to transfer to a baccalaureate program and those seeking workforce, adult, and continuing education at the sub-baccalaureate level. The system's progress in increasing access and upgrading Kentuckians' skills is discussed, as well as future activities to address needs.

GOAL 6: A report on progress in providing an efficient, responsive, and coordinated system of autonomous institutions that delivers educational services comparable to the national average — Kentucky made great strides in increasing access to postsecondary offerings in 2002-03; record enrollments were achieved. This section focuses on current and future initiatives designed to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the state's postsecondary system.

APPENDIX A — The Council’s Key Indicators of Progress in 2002-03 provide information on system and institutional performance.

APPENDIX B — A system profile and institutional profiles provide additional, comparative information on Kentucky’s colleges and universities.

APPENDIX C — A glossary defines unfamiliar terms and clarifies metrics for enrollment, graduation, retention, and other indicators.

In 2003-04, the Council staff will, among other initiatives, update the strategic agenda (2020 Vision), strategic implementation plan (the Action Agenda), and the benchmarks (key indicator goals) that enable the Council to carry out its accountability role as defined by HB 1. The Council actively seeks the input of the Governor, legislators, other policy makers, and the general public throughout this process.